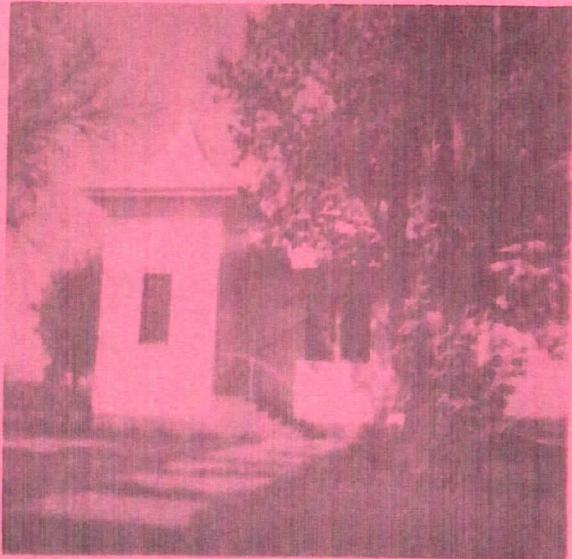


# IN THE BEGINNING



New York Valley Church

Published Quarterly  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 6 No. 23

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 6 - No. 23

July - 1973

Lester A. Harding - Editor

### Editor's Notes -

It can be seen that the pages of this historical quarterly has been increased from the 20 pages to 21 to 22 pages. With the amount of material that we have on hand and is available we felt that the increase in pages would be possible.

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IN THE BEGINNING now goes to around 40 different towns and cities in Kansas and 27 different states, including Hawaii.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our cover picture this time is the New York Valley Church of God of North America. This is one of the three or four remaining of the rural churches of Woodson County, that is still very active. One of the features of this church is their annual homecoming each year.

This picture was taken before the New York Valley Schoolhouse was obtained, and moved to the church site to be annexed to the church.

The story of this church appears on page 18 of this issue.

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As mentioned before we are in need of sport pictures — pictures of baseball, football, or picture of any kind of team picture.

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Our intentions were to have a picture and story of the Piqua band of around 1915, in this issue, but were unable to do so.

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We certainly appreciate the help that we get from the readers of this publication. Family pictures, school and church pictures and records are a great help.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly by  
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## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1965

The March dinner meeting of the Historical Society was held in the dining room of the Woodson Hotel, on Tuesday evening, March 27. There were 46 present for the meeting. Don J. Starkey, Topeka, State Museum Consultant, made a short talk. Reginald Webber, Yates Center, presented the main program, with colored slides and a lecture on France. Mr. Webber attended college in France.

The May meeting was also held at the hotel. This was our Memorial meeting. A short Memorial program was given honoring the nine members that have passed away since the last Memorial meeting. Memorial services were for: Cleo F. Harding, Wallace Zeigler, Nelson Toedman, C. Verne Johnson, Carl C. Nordmeyer, Rose Wille, Elsie Hassenpflug, S.K. Taylor and Ray Singleton.

Rev. Glenn Stark presented a program on his hobby of Wood Carving.

\* \* \* \* \*

### In Memoriam

Ray Singleton

87

April 3, 1973

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The Woodson County Historical Museum officially opened for the 1973 season on Friday, May 25, 1973. It will remain open six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday, each afternoon from the hours of 1 to 5. More work has been done to the Museum — some exhibits changed, and more added to the displays.

There will be two volunteer helpers at the building each day. The Woodson County Historical Society has been fortunate to have as many members interested enough in the Museum to volunteer to help keep it open that many days a week.

The membership of the Woodson County Historical Society is still staying above the 200 mark, but not to the 250 that we would like for 1973.

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Again we urge our readers and to tell anyone else to visit and tour the Woodson County Historical Museum. Much work and effort has gone into the building and upkeep of this building and contents. It is a county project and worthy of the support of each one.

Join and Support  
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00

## FREDERICK L. ARNOLD FAMILY -

One of the early settlers along upper Turkey Creek in Woodson County was Frederick Arnold. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and came here shortly after the war, arriving here in spring of 1866, and spent the remaining years of his life in that community.

Mr. Arnold was born in Randolph Co., Indiana, September 5, 1838. His father was Lewis Arnold and his mother's maiden name was Sarah Lucas. They had lived for sometime in Darke County, Ohio. The Arnold family were evidently acquainted with the Joseph Miller family who also came from there.

Frederick Arnold went to Illinois, about 1856, where he worked on the farm of his brother-in-law until the outbreak of the Civil War. On August 12, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Second Regiment, Illinois Cavalry. Later he was transferred to Co. D. He served until January 3, 1865, taking part in battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. At the close of hostilities he was sent to San Antonia, Texas, where he remained for a year with the Army of Reconstruction in Texas.

After receiving his honorable discharge he came to Kansas in June, 1866. In -----, 1869 Arnold received a patent for the west half of S.E. quarter of section 11, 24-14. The north end of this 80 acres took in what is now the Askren Cemetery and the south end bordered along the nort side of Turkey Creek. This was evidently his soldier claim. He soon sold this 80 acres to David Askren. Arnold never built a cabin on his claim.

On February 28, 1868, Frederick L. Arnold was married to Miss Helen S. Miller. They started their married life on the homestead of W.B. Stines, a half mile west of the Miller home.

Helen S. Miller was the eldest duaghter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller, early settlers along upper Turkey Creek. (An article about the Joseph Miller family appeared in Volume 4 - No. 15, of In The Beginning). Helen S. Miller was one of the pioneer school teachers of Woodson County. In 1867, she taught the District No. 1, or the Whitney School, and held a third grade certificate.

In 1870, Frederick L. or F.L. Arnold as we will call him purchased 120 acres of land down the creek in the Finney vicinity, that was known as the Arnold farm for many years.

By the time that F.L. and Helen Arnold moved to their new home they had a baby daughter named Dora E., who was born in 1869. Here two more children were born, Warren F. and Nellie M.

In theri new home along Turkey Creek in the Finney vicinity, F.L. Arnold soon took part in the affairs of his township and the county. He was elected as trustee of Liberty township about 1872, as in 1873 a notice appeared in the Woodson County Post published at Neosho Falls, concerning a pauper living in Liberty township. As trustee, Arnold was chairman of the township board. The notice above the name of F.L. Arnold, Trustee, Liberty Twp. read.

"Notice is hereby given that I will receive sealed bids for the maintenance of S. Carroll, a pauper, until the first Monday in May, 1873, for the ensuing year. Hereby reserving the right to reject any or all bids."

F.L. Arnold was postmaster of Finney from November 27, 1882 until October, 1895, or about 13 years. The postoffice and a small stock of groceries were kept in the Arnold home.

The Finney Methodist Church and the Finney schoolhouse were both located on land belonging to Mr. Arnold.



The Arnold Family — Seated are Frederick L. and Helen S. Standing, left to right — Nellie M., Warren F. and Dora E.

Dora E. Arnold never married, but seemingly spent the majority of her life caring for others. After caring for her parents the balance of their lives, Dora made her home for awhile with George and Allie Naylor. Mrs. Naylor was a sister of Helen S. Arnold. During the last few years of her life, Dora kept a group of high school girls and boys in Yates Center.

Warren F., better known as Warnie, spent the greater part of his life on the homestead of his father.

Warren was married to Sarah Melissa "Lizzie" Mulsow. They were the parents of the following children: A Stottlar, who married Merle Parks; Helen S., who married Walter A. Bowers; Lyle (Bill) married Doris French; Ray married Eva E. Budd, and Fred is married to Margaret McLaughlin.

Nellie M., married George Manifold. Their children were Gladys, who married Harley Klock. After his death she was married to Ray Baxter; Letha was married to Arthur Stockebrand; Lucille was married to Ernest Miller. Florence who was married to Floyd Storer. Twin sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Manifold, but they died when about two weeks old.

The Arnolds and Manifolds were all active in the civil and religious activities around Finney and Liberty townships. Mrs. Manifold taught school in the rural schools of Woodson County for 30 years. Three of her daughters also taught in this county. At age 92 Nellie Manifold is the last of her family.

Warren Arnold was a cattle and hog buyer and trader. He was one of the first in that vicinity to truck stock in his own truck to Kansas City. He lived on the home place for many years before moving to Missouri and then back to Yates Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Arnold, Dora Arnold and George Manifold are all buried at the Askren Cemetery.

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#### JOSEPH H. GUNBY —

The name of this man perhaps does not register with any of our readers, but we thought that he deserved a space in this historical quarterly. Joseph H. Gunby came here from Missouri in April 1861. He obtained possession of some land soon after arriving, evidently just to the west of the site of the present town of Buffalo. Woodson County took in this area at that time.

Joseph H. Gunby and Elvira Ann Welch were married on February 18, 1862. They were married by A.J. Rogers, a Minister of the Gospel. A.J. Rogers, lived on Big Sandy Creek in Woodson County. Elvira was a daughter of Peter Welch, who was one of the first settlers to homestead along Buffalo Creek, about a mile to the west of present town of Buffalo, in 1858.

In October, 1863, Gunby was commissioned as a captain in the 16th Reg., Kansas State Militia. The address of Gunby was given as Belmont, Woodson Co. Captain Joseph Gunby helped organize Company G of this Militia, with headquarters at Belmont, and may have had something to do with building Fort Belmont, although no mention was made of this. In October 1864, this group of Co. G, was included in Company C. Frontier Battalion, and were ordered to Fort Scott. But after 16 days they returned to Belmont where they were relieved of active duty. Serving under Captain Gunby were three of his brother-in-laws, James Welch, N.W. Quisenberry and Chester Gould.

After resigning from being captain, Gunby returned to farming until the town of Buffalo was established. He became a merchant and banker at the Buffalo State Bank.

The Gunby's had a son James F. Gunby, who was associated with his father in their merchantile and banking business.

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## HAY PRESSES —

While Yates Center claims to be the Hay Capitol of the World, it seems like Woodson County should be the Hay County of the World. For during their lifetime there were several shipping points in the county that may have shipped as much baled hay as from Yates Center.

Vernon was quite a shipping center, as was Batesville. Much hay was shipped from Rose, also from Lomando and Piqua. Carloads were shipped from Toronto and Neosho Falls.

However we would like to tell about some of the hay presses or balers that were used over the county down through the years. For a part of this article we will go to an article written by V.S. Cantrell. This was published by the Yates Center New, April 16, 1959, but had been written by Mr. Cantrell about two years before. It was called — "70 years in the Hay Business."

"The first hay press I saw stood on wheels and had a door in the side. You opened the door, shoved some hay inside, closed and latched the door, then drove the team half way around and while the team was being turned around opened the door and shoved in another forkful of hay. Would be rather slow today."

One of the first of these half circle hay presses used in Liberty township, was owned by David Walker, father of Ed and Clarence Walker. This press was operated by one horse or mule, on the outside of the sweep and would go in a half circle and then turned around and led back.



The above advertisement was found in an old copy of the Kansas Farmer.

To continue with Mr. Cantrell's article — "We lived near Gridley, Kansas at the time. My father sold several cars of hay to R.C. Bell at Gridley for \$3.00 per ton on the track.

In the spring of 1891 we moved to the Vernon neighborhood where the late J.N. Shannon, had several Laidlaw half circle hay presses on hand. There were large balers on wheels mostly wood, had to pitch the hay up on a table about five feet high. Another man stood on top of the bale chamber to tramp down the hay, then as the plunger came in step on it and rode it out. Any old hay baler man knows what it means to "ride the plunger out." Had to look sharp or you might lose a heel or the sole of your shoe and several men received smashed feet or legs."

These Laidlaw hay presses were manufactured by W.M. 'Bill' Laidlaw, a brother of H.T. Laidlaw, who became quite a hay dealer in Woodson County.

Mr. Cantrell continued — "About that time many makes of balers began coming out, such as Lightning, OK, Eagle, National, and others. I have stomped hay in all of them, 8 to 10 tons a day. Then a few years later the Ross Brothers of Emporia and Gridley, came out with the Auto-Fedan, which was the first really successful self feed baler on the market. After a few years the Ross Bros. built a factory in Kansas City, and later putting out a power baler which they made for several years."

"Just before the Auto-Fedan power baler came out, a blacksmith here at Vernon, George Tucker and myself got the idea of a power baler and got to working on it. After about a year's time we had one ready to go. We made several and I ran one for five years and baled a lot of hay, as much as any press out at that time. However, machinery was coming out and being improved pretty fast at that time, so I just bought the improved machinery and let out patent go."

"Our hay market was pretty uncertain at that time and it depended on consigning our hay to commission firms in Kansas City, who sold on a commission and there were many unreliable firms. A considerable amount of hay in those days sold to the many livery stables in the different towns, when transportation was taken care of by horse drawn stage lines and horseback. One of the stables that I sold a lot of hay to was located at what is now 12th or 13th Main Street in Wichita."

#### BALING HAY OVER THE COUNTY —

These articles were taken from the Yates Center News, beginning with the April 2, 1894 —

"Six months ending March 31 - Shipped from Yates Center over the Missouri Pacific, 442 cars of hay. Over the Santa Fe 348 cars of hay."

March 4, 1894 —

"Thomas Laidlaw & Sons have a unique way of advertising their business abroad. They have a lot of placards with their business printed on them, which they tack onto the doors of every carload of hay they ship."

July 30, 1894 —

"J. N. Shannon of Vernon has six hay presses going at Vernon and bales 50 tons a day. He has 1800 acres of grass to mow."

July 22 —

Thoms. Laidlaw and sons commenced the erection of another large hay barn in south part of town. This is their fifth hay barn in the county.

June 21 1895 —

"Tuttle Automatic team driver for hay presses. (This ad appeared in the News. They were supposed to replace the boy from driving the baler team. They were erected near the hay hopper where the man tying the bales could reach and pull a lever that would swing a whip to hit the lagging horse. However, it was not as satisfactory as the small boy that would follow the team around that circle all day.)

July 17, 1896 —

"M.E. Flack came here from Pratt Co. to work during the hay harvest and met with a painful accident Friday. The accident was caused by getting his foot caught in the press, breaking the bone and causing it to protrude through the flesh. Drs. Kellenberger and Orendorph were summoned and set the limb. The generous people of Vernon and vicinity raised about \$30.00 to assist Flack and family. His wife came on Tuesday."

August 7, '96 —

"The best record of baling hay that we heard about was made by the Pingrey press. Lute Pingrey, feeder and Jim Scott tying. An average of 400 bales a day for a week — one day, 501 bales. That is up to date hay baling."

June 30, '95 —

Dr. Wharton went over to Piqua Tuesday and amputated Ed Wright's leg. It will be remembered that he had the misfortune to get his leg crushed in a hay press sometime ago."

July 1896 —

A man who was working on F.H. Spencers hay press in Liberty township got his foot caught in the press, crushing the bone in his leg. The man had two small boys with him and had been here only a few days trying to earn some money to send to his family. The good people in that neighborhood soon raised enough money to send for the family and provide for his immediate wants.

May 10, 1901 —

Hershel Keck met with a painful accident last Friday while feeding a hay press for George Miller. He got both feet caught in the hopper. He is able to get around on crutches, but will be laid up for sometime.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE CHRISTIAN HEINRICH STANGE FAMILY —

While the name above was given at birth to the subject of this article, he was mostly called Henry. Henry Stange was born in Hanover, Germany, July 2, 1828. Here he grew up and received his education. We don't know exactly when he came to America, but presume it was prior to 1857, for in that year with his brother William, he left New York State and went to Chicago. After staying here and working for two months, they read an advertisement telling about the advantages of Woodson County, Kansas. So the two brothers first came to this county in 1857.

The following year, 1858, the father of these two, Christian Stange, with other members of the family, arrived in Woodson County. The following year, Christian Stange died and was buried in the Cherry Creek Cemetery. Beside William, Henry Stange who was the oldest had two other brothers, John and Christian. Also four sisters, Sophie, Catherine, Mary, who married Ernest Stockebrand, Caroline and Margaret.

After working for settlers along Cherry Creek for a while, Henry enlisted in Co. F, Ninth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, on November 16, 1861. This was the company organized by Captain B.F. Goss, at Neosho Falls. His age was given as 31 years, and his address as Owl Creek, Woodson County. He took part in the different battles this company participated in in Arkansas and Missouri against guerrillas. With the rest of his company, Henry was discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas.

After his discharge he returned to Woodson County, and on July 28, 1867, Henry Stange and Caroline Bauman were married. Wm. Stange and E. Stockebrand were the witnesses. The wedding took place in Humboldt.

Caroline Bauman, was from Garnett, but was related to the DeWitt Bennett family on Owl Creek, and often visited there.

On May 10, 1970, Henry Stange received a patent from the United States, for the northwest quarter of section 27-Twp. 24 - R. 16. His brother John Stange, had received a patent for the 80 acres adjoining on the east. Cherry Creek ran through about the center of the Henry Stange farmstead.

Several children were born to Henry and Caroline Stange, that died in infancy. They were buried in a little cemetery along a branch west and south of the farmstead. They had six children that grew to maturity namely: William J. Stange, farmed along Cherry Creek. Emilie Sophia, who taught in the Woodson County schools, Minnie, Fred W., who was a farmer and cement worker, Augusta Caroline, and Theodore A.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1887, the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad built a feeder line from Colony, through Neosho Falls to Yates Center, and cut across the northwest corner of the Henry Stange homestead.

The Henry Stange Family -



Left to right: Wm. J. , Emilie Sophia, Minnie, Fred. The small girl in center of the picture is Augusta C. Sitting are Henry Stange, his wife, Caroline, and the small boy between his parents is Theodore A.

William J. married Anna Schaede. Their children were: Lorene, Everett and Edith, twins, Earl and Thelma.

Emilie Sophia, married James W. Case. They had one daughter, Garnett Caroline, who married Carl Moore.

Minnie who married Ernest J. Toedman. Their children were: Mabel, Nelson and Florence.

Fred married Minnie Bruenger. They had a son, Louis H.

Augusta married Roy Blair Shulsky. They had a son Roy Blair, Mary and Lee.

Theodore A. (Ted), never married. He died in 1914, while serving with the State Militia in Colorado.

\* \* \* \*

In 1892, Henry Stange died and was buried in the little cemetery on his homestead.

In June , 1896, Caroline Stange later sold about an acre of land to Lomando Pierce, who established a depot, postoffice and store along the railroad that cut across the corner of their land. It was also known as the Lomando hay station.

## A GUN BATTLE ON THE SQUARE —

The shooting affair that happened on the square in Yates Center around 1883-85, has been told and retold for many years and of course many versions of the affair has been told, but the written account by an eye witness was recently made available to this writer. Among the many items of interest written about the early days of Yates Center in the "Historical sketch of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Depew", written by Mrs. Depew on her 78th birthday gave this account of the shooting.

"Then as now men forlook the straight and narrow way to follow paths of wickedness. Two miscreants, whom I believe were jailed for robbery broke out one day and for a brief while bedlam reigned in our midst. As our home was just across the alley from the south side of the square, the furor of yelling and shooting that suddenly rent the air sent me hastily to the kitchen door. As the store buildings were far apart my view was unobstructed. I saw a team and wagon carrying two men careening wildly down the street, pursued by a mob of some men afoot and some on horses.

My thought was that some one was attempting to escape the officers was instantly verified when I saw Frank Cannady, Deputy for his brother, Jim Cannady, the sheriff, crouch low against the wall of a building. As the wagon came within his range of vision, he fired hitting one of the occupants. Progress of the team as it rounded the southwest corner of the square was momentarily hidden from me, but I saw it again plainly when it dashed along the east side. Near the northeast corner of the square the horses stopped abruptly, having come up against a hitching post, or some other obstruction. The bandits were immediately seized by their pursuers the wounded one was taken into a nearby building to receive medical attention.

The queer zig-zagging course of the horses and the futile attempt of the driver to turn them from the square were explained when it was discovered he was trying to guide them with but one rein. Albert Alvord, a farmer and owner of the outfit had taken the other rein into Clark Stewarts harness shop on the west side of the square for repair, leaving the team standing in front. To the bandits in their mad dash for liberty this wagon offered the only means of hastening their escape and time was too precious to allow inspection of the harness. Later to the officers they confessed their plan of escaping to the blackjack north of town and of secreting themselves there until further flight was possible.

Later that night as Walter and I were returning from an entertainment at the Opera House, we learned of the death of the wounded man. Frank Cannady was staying with us. As he was asleep when we reached home, we wisely decided against telling him then. He was informed the next morning. Though he was highly commended for his courageous act and the faithful discharge of his official duty the seriousness of it was a severe strain on his nerves. For many months fear dominated his life for fear that comrades of the slain man might seek to avenge his death. While working in the woods

below the east of Rutledge Street quarrying rock for the construction of a wall on the site of our new home near there he constantly kept a loaded gun within arms reach; but no dire consequence of the tragedy followed.

Walter (Depew) was among the group of spectators on the west side of the square and saw the affair from the moment the desperadoes began their wild ride. He admitted that he lost no time in hiding behind a pair of scales when bullets whizzed through the air. One of the bullets going wild of its mark passed entirely through the crown of ex-sheriff Abe Smith's hat without as much as rumpling the hair of its wearer.

In an unmarked grave now scarcely more than a shallow depression in the earth filled with a matted profusion of weeds and grass the slain bandit sleeps in the old Kalida cemetery. Unclaimed his body was buried at county expense. Few except the officers and the surviving bandit attended the burial. Although this bandit was hand cuffed and under guard he was caught stealthily attempting to lift a gun from the pocket of an officer who had bent over to assist in lowering the casket into the grave. Renewed vigilance in the custody of the prisoner was used until his removal to Leavenworth."

As mentioned above this story had been told so many times that it was sometimes difficult to arrange it in order. No mention of who the two bandits were or where they were from.

We were given one lead which we will follow. This story as told that the two men were from Garnett. They had attended a dance out on Dry Creek, about 12 miles west and north of Yates Center. Upon leaving the dance they stole an overcoat. Word of the theft was sent to the county sheriff and the men were arrested and put in jail. This jail was a wooden affair made of 2 by 8 inch planks placed flat on top of each other.

The prisoners were evidently being taken from the jail to the courthouse, that was on the northeast corner of the square when they made their dash to escape. The right hand rein had been taken from the harness so the team could not be guided.

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## THE ADOLPHUS SINGLETON FAMILY —

A family or rather several families that were very well known and well thought of for many years in Woodson County, were the Singleton's.

Adolphus Singleton was born February 15, 1839, in northern Missouri, just across the state line from Iowa. Mary Sayre was born March 17, 1842, ----- On December 11, 1862, they were married. They were the parents of nine children namely, Henry Ward, Stephen Clark, Matthew Q., Lewis Guy, Phena May, Fannie L. Adolphus Roy, Walter Dorr and Ray Thomas.

In the year 1875, Adolphus Singleton and sons: Walter Q., and Clark, loaded up a covered wagon and headed for Kansas. After two weeks travel they arrived at Humboldt. In the meantime Mrs. Singleton and children, Guy and May came by train and arrived at Humboldt very soon after the others arrived by wagon. (Our readers will notice that all of the Singletons mentioned were known here by their middle names.)

From Humboldt the family went to Wilson County, along the Verdigris River, near the site of the town of Guiliford, down the river from Benedict. Here the Singleton's lived and farmed for the next ten years. And three more children were born, Fannie, Roy and Dorr.

In 1885, Adolphus Singleton bought three quarter sections of land along Dry Creek, in Woodson County, about seven miles due north of Toronto. A two story stone house stood on this farm, and is still standing and occupied by Bishop Tracy. Not long after arriving in their new home, the youngest son was born to Adolphus and Mary Singleton and given the name of Ray. This was on June 2, 1885.

Much of the information was furnished the writer by the above Ray Singleton, who passed away while this was being prepared.

On June 1, 1886, Adolphus Singleton became postmaster of Claude, the only postoffice to be established in that part of Woodson County. The post-office was kept in the old stone house of the Singleton's.

This postoffice was first established in this home by Stephen Cannon in 1884. Cannon had moved to this farm from Illinois in 1880, and established the postoffice of Claude on June 6, 1884. It is believed that Cannon called the post-office Claude in honor of his Grandson, Claude. However, the postoffice of Claude did not last here very long as it was discontinued July 23, 1884, and the papers went to Toronto. The following year Cannon became the postmaster of Toronto.

The Claude postoffice however, was re-established on September 22, 1884, by Samuel C. Gustin in his home along Dry Creek for almost two years.

As mentioned Singleton became postmaster in June, 1886, and kept in his home until the office was discontinued and papers taken to Quincy in Greenwood County, effective, October 31, 1891. Patron's who called for their mail at the Claude postoffice in the Singleton home were all from along the Dry Creek valley. They were the families of Samuel Gustin, Charles Burns, Henry Neiman, Frank Smith, Robert Daley, Peter Flannery. Perhaps last but not

least was Dennis Corkery. Corkery was the mail carrier that went to Quincy and brought the mail sack to the Claude postoffice.

After the discontinuence of the Claude postoffice, the Singlettes like others along the Dry Creek valley had to go to Quincy for their mail until the Rural Free Delivery was inaugurated. Quincy was around four miles to the southwest of the Singleton home.



A family picture of the Singleton family. Back row: L. to R.: Guy Singleton holding daughter Opal, Francis Jones, M.Q., Ray T., Walter D., and Roy. Seated are Anna McConnaughey Singleton, May Singleton Jones, Adolphus, Mary, Laura Klick Singleton and Clark, between them is their daughter Meryl. The three little girls in front are: Rita Jones, Hilda Singleton and Veda Singleton.

This picture was taken at the old stone house still standing near Dry Creek.

The Singleton family, who they married and their families:

Clark was married to Laura Klick. Their children were: Hazel, who died as an infant.

Veda, was married to Carl Gardiner.

Merle Singleton.

Mildred, who married Edwin Sykes.

Doph who married O'Dee Howard.

Lewis who married Dorothy Bleakley.

Mary died as an infant.

Matthew Q. who did not marry.

Guy who married Anna McConnahay. Their children were: Hilda, who married Boyne Whitehead.

Phena May, who married Francis Jones. They had one daughter Rita, who married Hugh R. Campbell.

Fannie died as a small girl.

Roy, who married Pearl Sims. Their children were: Vernon, who married Jean Daudel, Carmel, who married Chief Asby, and Mary Iva, who married Wayne Hampton. Roy later married Amelia Buholts.

Walter married Elizabeth Hubbard.

Ray Singleton was married to Sophia Spencer. Their children were: Maureen, who married Harold Livingston, and Dale who married Bernice Roberts.

\* \* \* \*

The Singleton home on Dry Creek became a well-known place and as the family grew older the different ones married and settled not far away — some to the east over the hills along Brazil Creek.

Around 1900, the Singleton baseball team attracted attention, with the six Singleton brothers and three cousins, making up the team. They played teams such as Quincy and Yates Center. The cousins were Bur, Rex, and Harry Singleton.

On the Singleton farm on Dry Creek was a flock of wild pea fowl. Perhaps at one time they were domesticated, but had run wild along the creek. They were there when A. Singleton bought the farm in 1885. As many as 50 of these large birds were counted one year. These birds usually nested in the bends of the creek. During dry years, they usually produced quite a crop of these baby fowls, but in wet years when the creek would overflow many would drown. About the only way they could catch one of these long-tailed rooster peacocks was to go out after a rain riding their ponies and single out one of the birds, and drive them through the wet weeds until the long tail feathers were wet, and then through the corn field until the feathers picked up so much mud that the bird could not fly and the rest was easy. The long loose feathers were taken to the creek and washed. When dry they then were beautiful. Ray Singleton told of selling large bundles of these feathers for fifty cents a bunch. The tale was told that a pair of these birds were seen flying from this farm on Dry Creek to the Verdigris River north of Quincy.

During the years from 1885 and 1905, while the Singletons lived here many of the herds of cattle going to the pastures along upper Dry Creek would be driven up the Dry Creek road and by the Singleton farm. A few herds would get to their farm near sundown. Mr. Singleton would have pens, feed and water for them overnight. Late in the summer buyers with a 'guide' would also come up the Dry Creek valley road, and would spend the night at the Singleton home.

## THE SINGLETON TELEPHONE LINE – 1898-99 –

As the various Singleton's were married they mostly started their married life not far from the homestead. But there were times in the winter when they would not see others for days at a time. One day Clark Singleton started out to his father's house with a quarter of a hog. Halfway there he met his father coming to his place with something similiar for him.

With five of their families living within a few miles of each other it came to Clark how helpful a telephone would be. His dream led eventually to what was perhaps the first rural telephone system in the county. A cousin Clark Davis who lived at Benedict and had attended KSAC, now Kansas State University and had learned how to install telephones of that day, and agreed to help with the installing phones and lines between these various families. In all they were about 12 miles apart.

Four of the large wall telephones were ordered, and about ten days later they came and were installed. The insulators, batteries and a certain amount of smooth wire were obtained. A few poles around 15 feet long were cut. These were to be used to run the smooth wire over roads and gates to save expenses the top wire of barbed wire fences were used.

The two Clarks started out to try their experiment. A phone was installed in the A. Singleton home. Another one was taken down the road about a half mile, and were connected together. Called back to the house, Mrs. Singleton answered the reception was wonderful, and a dream was to come true. It took a day and a half to connect the line to the four families. Neighbors came to watch and criticize them for wasting time in building the telephone line. Some said that they had have a hollow wire, and others had different ideas.

The line ran from the A. Singleton home east to the Francis Jones home about two miles east on a branch of Brazil Creek, then to the Clark Singleton home about three miles to the southeast along another branch of Brazil Creek. Then the line went to the Guy Singleton home back toward Toronto along Cedar Creek. Five families were mentioned, but we only have names of four.

When the final phone was installed, a fascinated but unbelieving onlooker from nearby Quincy refused to take hold of the receiver. Walter Singleton asked his sister, Mrs. Jones, who lived a couple of miles away to play something on the organ. He held the receiver to the doubtors ear. The man kept moving away, but finally caught the sound of the organ, he slapped Walter on the back real hard and yelled, "I heard it, I heard it!" He dashed out of the house and headed for Quincy talking to himself and looking back as if he had seen a ghost.

A short time later the line was run to Toronto and a telephone was installed in the store next to the Doctor's office with the understanding the storekeeper would call the doctor when he was needed. There were no telephones in Toronto at that time and saved many an eight mile trip.

The next year Clark Singleton made a line to Yates Center, on a fence most of the way. It was quite a job with grades to go over, many gates and two rail

roads all of which required poles. By paying a fee each month he made arrangements to connect onto the Yates Center exchange. He and his brother then put in a small community exchange, as a line was also run to Quincy. Thus the rude telephone line of the "Crazy" Singleton, became quite a rural exchange, until the Singletons moved to Yates Center.

An added attraction to the community was the fact that the young school teacher staying with them was a good singer and as a highlight of the evening folks on the line would call up and have her sing.

Other rural communities soon caught the fever and with three months after this first rural system was installed others had formed and were hooking onto the Yates Center exchange.

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While the Singleton brothers were all well known over the county, perhaps Clark was the best known. Clark, at the age of nine drove a team and wagon for his father from northern Missouri to Wilson County, coming to live in Woodson County at the age of 19, where his life was a part of the county development. After moving to Yates Center in 1908 he served two terms as Woodson County Treasurer. Then for 25 years he was in the grocery business in Yates Center.

In 1945, Clark was elected to the board of county commissioners. During the next eight years he missed only two of 512 meetings of the board. He was on time for every one of these meetings, being at the courthouse before 8 o'clock each morning. He stepped down from active duty in January, 1853, lacking less than a month of being 87 years old.

Clark Singleton died in March, 1965 at the age of 99 years. The last of this large family of Singleton's was the youngest, Ray, who passed away in April, 1973, lacking just two months of being 88 years old.

#### NEW YORK VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD —

The New York Valley neighborhood received its name from an early settler named John Freer, who came from New York state. As one drives down the "Valley", on first thought he wonders where the valley really is, but looking on to the north is the main Owl Creek, and to the south is South Owl, and to the east they merge together.

In the southeast corner on section 27, Twp. 25, Range 16, six miles east and three miles south of Yates Center, the New York Valley schoolhouse, District No. 39 was located on land belonging to D.T. Shotts. It was felt that a Sunday School should be organized in that vicinity.

So in 1882, Mrs. Peter Grisier and Mrs. D.T. Shotts with the help of the Sellers, Leonard, Heistand and perhaps other families, a Sunday School was organized.

In 1884, a church was organized here by Rev. H.W. Cross, a circuit minister of the denomination of the Churches of God of North America. The church and Sunday School met in the schoolhouse until 1895 when a tract of land on the boundary line between the Peter Grisier and D.T. Shotts farms was given to the church. This was a quarter mile west of the schoolhouse.

The first church building was built on this land by Rev. T.B. Moore and son Benny and much donated labor. Services were held in this church until on February 28, 1918, a cyclone wrecked the building.

In April of that year Rev. W.T. Turpin organized the tearing down of the building and preparing the material to build a new church. Silas Naylor was engaged as head carpenter. Money, labor, and material was donated and on August 19, 1918 the building was completed and dedicated, free of debt, by Rev. H.W. Cross, the man who organized the church in 1884. It has continued to be an evergreen church and Sunday School ever since.

Men and women who have served as Sunday school superintendents of the New York Valley Church down through the years are as follows; although some may have been missed: Peter Grisier, Robert Sellars, Caswell Leonard, Will Heistand, John Montanya, S.A. Montanya, Mr. Hamlin, Charles Heistand, George Ferree, Mrs. Ella Montanya, Mrs. Kate Smith, Harry Frank, Henry Steffen, Mrs. Emma Grisier, Mrs. Irma Smith, Clayton Peck.

Some of the pastors that have served this church through the years were: Revs. Bartlebaugh, H.W. Cross, W.T. Turpin, Ahi Leonard, Grose, Kelley, Charles Berry, Fred Hamlin, Mitchell, L.E. Bradley, A.H. Shuman, L. Chapman, Higgs, Howard Gillman, Ed Friend, Van Sickler, J.E. Comer, McWilliams, Clarence Thornton, M.F. Kellerby, Charles Thomas, James Howard, O.C. Houston, and the present pastor, Gerald Gibson.

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## MILLER'S GROVE —

Abraham B. Miller, a veteran of the Civil War, came to Woodson County in 1868. Miller was a native of Holmes Co. Ohio and was born in December, 1839. When only a year old his father Benjamin Miller, was killed by a falling tree. He resided in the Buckeye state with his mother and other children until he was fourteen years old, when they moved to Indiana.

As the Civil War broke out and President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand volunteers, Abraham Miller enlisted in Company E., Eleventh Indiana Cavalry. He took part in several battles, including that at Nashville and Tuscumbia, Tennessee. The latter was on Christmas Day, 1864.

Receiving his discharge from the army, Miller went back to Indiana, and in November 1865, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Raray. After renting a farm in Indiana for awhile the Miller's decided to come west.

After landing in Woodson County, Kansas, Miller applied for a homestead. He received a patent for 80 acres in Everett township — the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34 — Twp. 24 — R. 16, situated along Cherry Creek. He called his homestead Miller's Grove.

The following year in June, 1869, Abraham Miller established a postoffice in his home which he named Miller's Grove. The postoffice existed for six years with Miller as postmaster. After residing on the homestead for seven years the Miller's decided to leave the farm and Woodson County.

The grasshopper invasion of 1873-74, was the deciding factor of the Miller's leaving and going back to Indiana. From there he went to Arkansas for a while for his health. In 1892, they moved back to Woodson County and bought a farm of 80 acres two miles northwest of Vernon.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were the parents of nine children, William, Tudie, Abraham L., Fred, Daniel B., Carl, and twins Jesse and Chester, and Grace.

North Maple Grove School District No. 24, was about a mile and three quarters west of Miller's Grove. The school board of District No. 24 in 1871 was J.L. Harris, J.B. Wells and R.G. Repass, and gave their address as Miller's Grove.

When the Miller's left Woodson County from Miller's Grove, the postoffice was discontinued and the papers transferred to the postoffice of Everett farther up Cherry Creek.

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## TORONTO, KANSAS - 1896 —

Toronto was very lively last Saturday. A couple of our citizens engaged in a fistic encounter and each received \$7.25 worth of experience. Later on the Marshall placed another young gentleman under arrest for being intoxicated and using profane language.

## FIRST ELECTIONS IN WOODSON COUNTY —

A proclamation issued December 19, 1857, at Lecompton, Kansas Territory, by Frederick P. Stanton, Secretary of the Territory, but acting as Governor, appointed commissioners for several counties, "whose duty it shall be, in pursuance of said law, to establish voting precincts in their respective counties, and appoint three judges of election in each precinct for the election to be held on the 4th day of January, 1858.

The two commissioners appointed for Woodson County were Charles Cameron of Belmont and John Woolman of Neosho Falls. In January, 1858, Charles Cameron was appointed as Postmaster of Belmont, and on February 2, 1858, a commission was issued to Cameron as notary public for Woodson County, the first for the county.

The election for January 4, 1858, was not held until March 22, of that year, and on March 29, 1858, commissions were issued by J.W. Denver, acting governor, to the following officers of Woodson County by virtue of their election on the above date: John Woolman, Probate Judge; Charles Cameron, Clerk of Probate Court; A.L. Dunn, Register of Deeds; C.E. Hoffman, County Attorney; L. Fuqua, Sheriff; W.J. Houghawant, County Treasurer; H.H. Updike, County Surveyor; J.M. Luck, County Coroner; Issac W. Dow, as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Wm. P. Phillips and G.J. Caven, as Supervisors; D.H. Miller, P.B. Sweet, H.J. Gregory and Asa Jones as Justices of the Peace; J.H. Garver, H. McConnell, H. Campbell and H. Grosback as Constables; H. Learned, Assessor; Isaac Wait, as Clerk, and R.P. Spencer as Township Treasurer. These latter three were evidently the officers of Neosho Falls Township.

On May 22, 1858, the Board of Supervisors, with Isaac W. Dow, Chairman, William Phillips and G.J. Caven, other member and Charles Cameron as Clerk of the Board met at Neosho Falls. At this meeting the board passed an order for the conduct of all business at Neosho Falls until some other place be provided.

On August 16, 1858, the Board of Supervisors again met at Neosho Falls and proceeded to lay the county into five townships; Neosho Falls, Liberty, Owl Creek, Belmont and Verdigris. Voting places were also chosen to hold the first election for these townships on September 16, 1858. The voting for Belmont township was at the "house of Lowe and French." John Lowe was the first postmaster at Belmont, in September 21, 1857, and was replaced by Cameron from January 14 until May 15, 1858, when Lowe was again appointed as postmaster. So at the time of the election Lowe was postmaster and the "House of Lowe and D.C. French" was evidently a postoffice and store. The voting place for Neosho Falls township was just given at Neosho Falls.

The voting place for Verdigris township was the "dwelling of P.B. Sweet." The cabin of Sweet was southeast of where the town of Toronto is now located. P.B. Sweet was a schoolteacher and had come from Iowa. He was

about 30 years of age and taught the first term of school there in 1859.

The voting place for Liberty township was the home of Asa Jones. The cabin of Asa Jones was near Turkey Creek, about ten miles north of the present Yates Center, on the west side of what is now US-75.

The people of Owl Creek township would vote at the home of William Campbell. We have found no more about William Campbell, although there was a John Campbell in Owl Creek township.

The only township electing a full ticket at this election was the Belmont Township. On October 23, 1858; Commissions were issued by J.W. Denver, secretary. Kansas Territory with Executive Office at Lecompton, to the following officers of Belmont Township, by virtue of election on September 16, 1858. — Rolla Pearsall, Chairman Supervisor; S.P. Campbell and M. Phillips, as supervisors; C.D. Shields, William Stockebrand, and Horace Keyes, as Justice of the Peace; A.S. Kennedy, John Stockebrand, Leonard H. Tripp and S.D. Collitt as Constables; N.J. Spillman, as Township Clerk; J. Keys as treasurer; and Albert L. Pearsall, as Assessor. As we cannot find any record of a John Stockebrand at that time, we assume it must have been Ernest Stockebrand.

The election called for on September 16, 1858, for the county evidently did not materialize, possibly for the reason that the county supervisors, or commissioners as they are called now could not agree upon a meeting place that could be called the county seat.

The Board of Supervisors met at Belmont on October 12, 1858, with a new set of officers. (We find no record of their being elected.) They were Lewis C. Thompson of Verdigris township, John M. Campbell, Owl Creek; and R. Pearsall, Belmont. Thompson was chosen as chairman, and they proceeded to do business on that day, and adjourned to meet again at Belmont on November 2. However, on November 2, Thompson and Pearsall, were the only ones to meet along with L.D. Carney, deputy clerk. No quorum was present so no business was transacted.

The next meeting of the supervisors was held at Neosho Falls on December 27, 1858. Isaac W. Dow the original chairman and H. Grosback from Liberty were the only ones present for that meeting. Again no quorum was present. They adjourned to meet at the same place on January 24, 1859. However, no quorum showed up. No more meetings were held until April 5, 1859.

At this meeting the supervisors were Rolla Pearsall, of Belmont; E. Wheeler, Owl Creek and B.F. Goss, Neosho Falls with Goss being chosen as chairman, and Charles Cameron as clerk. Motion was made and carried that this board reject the previous vote on county officers. They proceeded to count recent votes on the Constitution for Kansas. Only three townships voted on this amendment. Verdigris voted 13 for and 3 against; Neosho Falls voted 51 for and one against, and Belmont township voted 13 for and none against.

The next general election was on November 8, 1859. At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors to canvass the votes cast at that election. There

were five men present representing the five townships. There were about 168 votes cast at this election. N.S. Goss was elected as a member of the 12th Council District. Elected to the county officers were: Superintendent of Public Schools, Peter Stevens, Probate Judge, Jonathan Keyes; County Treasurer, G.J. Gavin; Sheriff, Hyram McConnell; County Attorney, A. Vernam; Coronor, David Reynolds; Surveyor, John Woolman; Register of Deeds, Emoric Chase and H. Grosback, each had 84 votes, (No Choice); These two were neighbors in Liberty township ; County Clerk, J.M. Leech and M. Smith Austin, each had 81 votes (No choice.)

At a special election in March 1860, Herman Grosback was elected as Register of Deeds, and T.D. Bodman, County Clerk, to fill the vacancies for the election above.

#### KANSAS TERRITORY

Woodson Kansas

Neosho Falls, March 2, 1860

Board of Supervisors met at Neosho Falls with B.F. Goss in chair. A quorum was present. S.E. Hoffman was appointed clerk.

Supervisors were Emoric Chase, Liberty; Jonathan Foster, Belmont; Rudolph Orth, Owl Creek; Lewis Thompson, Verdigris.

Foster introduced a resolution that the board of supervisors, Woodson County do hereby divide said county into the following commissioner districts. Liberty and Neosho Falls, First District; Belmont and Owl Creek, Second District; Verdigris and Buffalo, Third District.

Goss made resolution to postpone the other resolution until a census was taken. Voting for the Goss resolution were: Orth, Chase and Goss. Against were: Foster and Thompson.

(The first census taken in Woodson County was in June of 1860. Isaac W. Dow, one of the founders of Neosho Falls, was the first census taker of Woodson County. He was also the chairman of the first board of Supervisors, who marked off and named the five townships in the county at that time. Many of the people included in this first census were living in the area, two miles south of the present Woodson-Wilson county line, especially from Buffalo west.

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency  
Woodson Co. Coop  
State Exchange Bank  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
Schornick Oil Co.  
Self Service Grocery  
Krueger's Variety  
Walter A. Bowers  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Farmer's Coop Piqua  
Gualding Oil Co.  
Harry O. Ashley  
Swope & Son Impl. Co.  
Campbell Plumbing & Electric  
Clyde Hill  
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac  
Paul C. Laidlaw  
Rogers Brothers Garage  
Charles H. Carpenter  
Newtex Manufacturing Co.  
J.C. Schnell  
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store  
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home  
Superior Building Supply, Inc.  
Marie Beine  
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Baker  
Kimbell Ranch—Ed Kimbell  
Pringle Ranch-J.W. & J. Richard  
Al's Jewelry  
First National Bank—Toronto  
Blackjack Cattle Co.  
Yates Center Elevator Co.  
Jasper's Shopping Spot  
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent  
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Atkin Clinic  
Daly Western Supply  
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency  
Dyer Chevrolet Co.  
Linde Barber Shop  
House of Fabrics  
Brown's Western Auto  
Donald E. Ward  
Wilma Mark  
Milton Wrampe  
Gambles Friendly Store  
E.E. Light  
Yates Center News  
Everybody's Grocery  
Baker Rexall Drug Store  
Yates Center Skelgas Service  
Campbell Furniture & Undertaking  
Piqua State Bank  
Don & Neva's Tastee-Freez  
Security Oil Co.  
L. & S. Meat Market  
Morton Equipment Co.